

does on older adults. Parents, school teachers, medical people, parents, teenagers, young people, everybody recognizes the authority of Dr. Zako's statement and can readily agree and identify with what he has said. For LB 221 the Nebraska Medical Association, Psychological Association, Greater Omaha Medical Association, the Metropolitan Medical Association as well as the Lancaster County Medical Association, the Four Corner Sandhill Medical Association, Nebraska Nurses Association and et cetera, et cetera, subscribe to raising the drinking age to twenty-one and I believe that in itself is significant. Yesterday at the Nebraska Safety Committee's meeting I was advised by Dr. Robert Sanders from the State of Tennessee, a member of the American Pediatrics Academy, was delighted that Nebraska was moving ahead with a bill to raise the drinking age to twenty one because of its physical effects on teenagers. I also will read a statement. Dr. George Valles, who established and directed one of the nations largest alcohol centers located in the Veterans Hospital in Houston, Texas, in his book, From Social Drinking to Alcoholism, he compares the autonomic nervous system of the body to an orchestra with the hypothalamus gland being the conductor and the hypothalamus controls most of our internal organs including the interaction between our emotions and our bodies and it also controls thirst and hunger. Now Dr. Valles and others believe that a person with an immature hypothalamus, most persons under twenty-one years of age consume alcohol, he damages the hypothalamus perhaps permanently. Since the hypothalamus controls the body's appetite, the loss of this control coupled with poor nutrition means that it would take an almost super human effort to abstain from alcohol. Those two statements with the endorsement of the association should allow us all to be very introspective in the effect of regular drinking of alcohol on the teenagers in the State of Nebraska and I submit there has been an explosion in this area of teenage drinking even to the point of epidemic. Our figures by galore.....you have read them in the paper, you have read them in the handouts I have given to you and I will not dwell on them at this time, but I will point out DWI for nineteen year olds in 1971, 88. The next year the nineteen year olds became legal drinkers. Now their DWI's didn't increase to 95, to 105 or to 120. It increased to 207 and that is continued increasing through 1977 at the last figure I have here, 477. Drop back to seventeen year olds and you will see that it goes from 48 in '71 to 76 in '72 and climbs right on up to 179. Now those are astronomical percentage changes and they certainly should be in your mind as you consider that